

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14650 01 OF 02 011825Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 011810Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1500

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14650

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, GE, WB

SUBJECT: GDR OBSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT TO BERLIN

REF: BONN 13914

SUMMARY: IN AUGUST 30 TRANSIT COMMISSION MEETING, FRG REJECTED THE GDR ASSERTION THAT STERNFAHRT TRAVELLERS INTENDED TO MISUSE TRANSIT ROUTES. FRG DESCRIBED THE GDR TURNBACK OF BUSSES AS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. FRG REP (HENZE) HAS BRIEFED ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS ON AUGUST 30 MEETING OF THE TRANSIT COMMISSION (TC) IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BONN 14650 01 OF 02 011825Z

EAST BERLIN. THE MEETING HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE FRG

TO REFUTE THE GDR CLAIM IN THE AUGUST 18 TC MEETING THAT THE STERNFAHRT PARTICIPANTS HAD INTENDED TO MISUSE THE TRANSIT ROUTES ON AUGUST 13. ADDITIONALLY, THE FRG WISHED TO TERM THE GDR ACTION AS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT (TA).

2. ACCORDING TO HENZE, FRG TRANSPORT MINISTRY REP (WULF) SAID THAT FRG COULD NOT ACCEPT THE GDR REASONS FOR AUGUST 13 TURNBACK OF STERNFAHRT BUSSES. WULF REJECTED THE GDR ARGUMENTS ONE AFTER ANOTHER. HE SAID THAT THE SMALL NUMBER OF LEAFLETS FOUND BY GDR AUTHORITIES WERE FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY. IN ANY CASE, BUSSES ON WHICH NO MATERIAL HAD BEEN FOUND HAD ALSO BEEN TURNED BACK. THE GDR CLAIM THAT THE FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU ARTICLE, DESCRIBED REFTEL, SUPPORTED THE MIS-USE CHARGE WAS ALSO REJECTED. WULF NOTED THAT THE ARTICLE ALSO CONTAINED A REQUEST BY A STERNFAHRT LEADER THAT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BEHAVE IN A DISCIPLINED, RESTRAINED MANNER ON THE ROUTES.

3. WULF CONCLUDED HIS STATEMENT BY NOTING THAT THE PURPOSE OF ONE'S TRAVEL TO BERLIN CANNOT BE CONSTRUED TO IMPLY MISUSE OF THE TRANSIT ROUTES. MISUSE WAS ONLY POSSIBLE ON THE ROUTES THEMSELVES. THEREFORE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REGARDED THE GDR ACTION AS A "CLEAR VIOLATION" OF THE TA. IN THAT VIEW, THE FRG WAS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES. THE GDR SHOULD SEE TO IT THAT SUCH OBSTRUCTION DOES NOT HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE.

4. THE GDR SIDE (FRIEDERICKS) REPLIED BY REJECTING THE STATEMENT THAT THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE GDR HAD VIOLATED THE TA. HE REITERATED THAT THE SITUATION WAS COVERED IN ARTICLE 16 PARA 2 OF THE TA.

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PAGE 01 BONN 14650 02 OF 02 011824Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 14650

THAT SECTION OF THE TA (DEALING WITH SEARCHING TRAVELLERS OR TURNING THEM BACK) HAD BEEN AGREED UPON SO THAT DISTURBANCES ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES COULD BE PREVENTED; ONLY IF PREVENTIVE MEASURES WERE POSSIBLE COULD PEACEFUL TRANSIT TRAFFIC BE ASSURED. THE GDR HAD STRICTLY APPLIED THE TA IN THE PAST AND WOULD DO SO IN THE FUTURE.

5. WULF REITERATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN INSUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR SUSPECTING MISUSE OF THE TRANSIT ROUTES, BUT ADDED THAT THE TC OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT SETTLE THE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION.

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PAGE 02 BONN 14650 02 OF 02 011824Z

6. HENZE INFORMED THE BONN GROUP THAT THE FRG CABINET WOULD BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF THE TC MEETING AT ITS SEPTEMBER 1 SESSION. HE ANTICIPATED THAT GAUS WOULD THEN INFORM THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THE FRG CONSIDERED THE ACTIONS OF AUGUST 13 A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE TA.

7. AT THE AFTERNOON PRESS BRIEFING ON SEPTEMBER 1, GOVERNMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN BOELLING STATED THAT THE BRIEFING ON THE TC MEETING BY INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTER FRANKE HAD BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM AT THAT MORNING'S CABINET MEETING. AFTER DISPUTING THE

GDR CLAIM THAT THERE WERE ADEQUATE GROUNDS TO SUSPECT MISUSE OF THE TRANSIT ROUTES ON AUGUST 13, BOELLING STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD WELCOMED THE ALLIED PROTEST TO THE SOVIETS. IT WAS UNNECESSARY TO STATE, HE ADDED, THAT THE FRG WAS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE POSITION OF THE THREE WESTERN POWERS.

8. BOELLING ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT GAUS WOULD DELIVER A PROTEST OF THE VIOLATION OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT TO THE GDR GOVERNMENT TOMORROW (SEPTEMBER 2). RESPONDING TO A QUESTION, HE STATED THAT THE PROTEST WOULD BE BOTH ORAL AND WRITTEN, AND HE EXPRESSED THE EXPECTATION THAT THE FRG POSITION WOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY THE GDR. HE COMMENTED THAT HONECKER HAD RECENTLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES. HILLENBRAND

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